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The Doctor's Dilemma

By Hesba Stretton

CHAPTER XI.—(Continued.)

That was my sentence of banishment. She had only addressed me once during the conversation. It was curious to see how there was no resentment in her manner towards my father, who had systematically robbed her, whilst she treated me with profound wrath and bitterness.

The report of my father's illness had spread before I reached home, and sufficiently accounted for our visit to Jersey, and the temporary postponement of my last trip to England before our marriage. My mother, Johanna, and I kept our own counsel, and answered the many questions asked us as vaguely as the Delphic oracle.

I wrote to Tardif, telling him I was going for an indefinite period to London, and that if any difficulty or danger threatened Olivia, I begged of him to communicate with my mother, who had promised me to befriend her as far as it lay in her power. My poor mother thought of her without bitterness, though in deep regret. To Olivia herself I wrote a line or two, finding myself too weak to resist the temptation. I said:

"My dear Olivia—I told you I was about to be married to my cousin Julia Dobree; that engagement is at an end. I am obliged to leave Guernsey, and seek my fortune elsewhere. It will be a long time before I can see you again, if I ever have that great happiness. Whenever you feel that want of a true and tender friend, my mother is prepared to love you as if you were her own daughter. Think of me also as your friend."

"MARTIN DOBREE."

CHAPTER XII.

I left Guernsey the day before my father and Julia returned from Jersey. My immediate future was as black as it might have been. I was going direct to the house of my friend Jack Senior, who had been my chum at college. He, like myself, had been hitherto a sort of partner to his father, the well-known physician, Dr. Senior, of Brook street. They lived together in a highly respectable but gloomy residence, kept bachelor fashion, for they had no woman-kind at all belonging to them. The father and son lived a good deal apart, though they were deeply attached to one another. Jack had his own apartments, and his own guests, in the spacious house, and Dr. Senior had his.

The first night, as Jack and I sat up together in the long summer twilight, I told him everything—as one tells a friend a hundred things one cannot put into words to any person who dwells under the same roof, and is witness of every circumstance of one's career.

As I was talking to him, every emotion and perception of my brain, which had been in a wild state of confusion and conflict, appeared to fall into its proper rank. I was no longer doubtful as to whether I had been the fool my father called me. My love for Olivia acquired force and decision. My judgment that it would have been a folly and a crime to marry Julia became confirmed.

"Old fellow," said Jack, when I had finished, "you are in no end of a mess."

"Well, I am," I admitted; "but what am I to do?"

"First of all, how much money have you?" he asked.

"I'd rather not say," I answered.

"Come, old friend," he said, in his most persuasive tones, "have you fifty pounds in hand?"

"No," I replied.

"That's bad," he said; "but it might be worse. I've lots of tin, and we always went shares."

"I must look out for something to do to-morrow," I remarked.

"Ah, yes," he answered dryly, "you might go as assistant to a parish doctor, or get a berth on board an emigrant ship. There are lots of chances for a young fellow. Tell me what you want."

"I've a good mind to marry Julia myself. I've always liked her, and she wants a woman in the house. That would put things straight, wouldn't it?"

"She would never consent to leave Guernsey," I answered, laughing. "That was one reason why she was so glad to marry me."

"Well, then," he said, "would you mind me having Olivia?"

"Don't just about such a thing," I replied; "it is too serious a question with me."

"You are really in love!" he answered. "I'm not just at all. But I am ready to do anything that will get you off my back. So it proved, for he and Dr. Senior did their best during the next few weeks to find a suitable opening for me. I made their house my home, and was treated as a most welcome guest in it. Still the time was irksome. They were busy whilst I was unemployed.

My mother's letters did not tend to raise my spirits. The tone of them was uniformly sad. She told me the flood of sympathy for Julia had risen very high indeed; from which I concluded that the public indignation against myself must have risen to the same tide mark. Julia had assumed her old occupation, but her spirit was quite broken. Johanna Carey had offered to go abroad with her, but she had declined.

A friend of Julia's, said my mother in another letter, had come to stay with her, and endeavor to rouse her. It was evident she did not like Julia's new life, for she disliked her, and she was not unkind to her. This persistent silence on my mother's part was very trying.

I had been away from Guernsey two months, and Jack was making arrangements for a long absence from London as soon as the season was over, leaving

me in charge, when I received the following letter from Johanna Carey:

"Dear Martin—Your father and Julia have been here this afternoon, and have confided to me a very sad and very painful secret, which they ask me to break gently to you. You must come home again for a season. Even Julia wishes it, though she cannot stay in the same house with you, and will go to her own with her friend Kate Daltrey. Your father cried like a child. He takes it more to heart than I should have expected. Yet there is no immediate danger; she may live for some months yet. My poor Martin, you will have a mother only a few months longer. Three weeks ago she and I went to Sark, at her own urgent wish, to see your Olivia. I did not then know why. She had a great longing to see the unfortunate girl who had been the cause of so much sorrow to us all, but especially to her, for she has pined sorely after you. We did not find her in Tardif's house, but Suzanne directed us to the little graveyard half a mile away. We followed her there, and recognized her, of course, at the first glance. She is a charming creature; that I allow, though I wish none of us had ever seen her. Your mother told her who she was, and the sweetest flush and smile came across her face! They sat down side by side on one of the graves, and I strolled away, so I do not know what they said to one another. Olivia walked down with us to the Havre Gosselin, and your mother held her in her arms and kissed her tenderly. Even I could not help kissing her."

"Now I understand why your mother longed to see Olivia. She knew then—she has known for months that her days are numbered. When she was in London last November she saw the most skillful physicians, and they all agreed that her disease was incurable and fatal. Why did she conceal it from you? Ah, Martin, you must know a woman's heart, a mother's heart, before you can comprehend that. Your father knew, but so one else."

"Do not come before you have answered this letter, that we may prepare her for your return. Write by the next boat."



"KISSED HER TENDERLY."

and come by the one after. Julia will have to move down to the new house, and that will be excitement enough for one day. Your faithful, loving cousin, "JOHANNA CAREY."

I read this letter twice, with a shiver in my ears and a whirling of my brain. I could realize the meaning. Then I refused to believe it. No one knew better than a doctor how the most clever head among us may be at fault. My mother dying of an incurable disease! Impossible! I would go over at once and save her. She ought to have told me first. Who could have attended her so skillfully and devotedly as her only son?

My mother had consulted Dr. Senior himself when she had been in London. He did not positively cut off all hope from me, though I knew well he was giving me encouragement in spite of his illness had caused me to put it off from time to time. Besides, whilst I was absent from the Channel Islands my curiosity appeared to sleep. It was enough to picture Olivia in her lowly home in Sark. Now that I was returning to Guernsey, and the opportunity was about to slip by, I felt more anxious to see it. I would learn all I could about Olivia's family and friends, without betraying any part of her secret.

Of course there was not the smallest difficulty in finding the office of Messrs. Scott and Brown. There did not seem much business going on, and our appearance was hailed with undisguised satisfaction. The solicitors were two inferior, common-looking men, but sharp enough to be a match for either of us. We both felt it, as if we had detected a snake in the grass by its rattle. I grew wary by instinct, though I had not come with any intention to tell them what I knew of Olivia. My sole idea had been to learn something myself, not to impart any information. But when I was face to face with these men my business, and the management of it, did not seem quite so simple as it had done until then.

"Do you wish to consult my partner or me?" asked the keenest looking man. "I am Mr. Scott."

"Either will do," I answered. "My business will be soon dispatched. Some months ago you inserted an advertisement in the Times."

"To what purpose?" inquired Mr. Scott.

"You offered fifty pounds reward," I replied, "for information concerning a young lady."

A gleam of intelligence and gratification flickered upon both their faces, but quickly faded away into a sober and blank gravity. Mr. Scott waited for me to speak again, and bowed silently, as if to intimate he was all attention.

"I came," I added, "to ask you for the name and address of that young lady's friends, as I should prefer communicating directly with them, with a view to co-operation in the discovery of her hiding place. I need scarcely say I have no wish to receive any reward. I entirely waive my claim to that, if I entirely waive my putting me into connection with the family."

"Have you no information you can impart to us?" asked Mr. Scott.

"None," I answered decisively. "It is some months since I saw the advertisement, and it must be nine months since you put it into the Times. I believe it is nine months since the young lady was missing."

"About that time," he said.

"Her friends must have suffered great anxiety," I remarked.

"Very great indeed," he admitted.

"If I could render them any service it would be a great pleasure to me," I continued; "cannot you tell me where to find them?"

"We are authorized to receive any information," he replied. "You must allow me to ask if you know anything about the young lady in question?"

"My object is to combine with her friends in seeking her," I said eagerly. "I really cannot give you any information; but if you will put me into communication with them, I may be useful to them."

"Well," he said, with an air of candor, "of course the young lady's friends are anxious to keep in the background. It is not a pleasant circumstance to occur in a family. Of course, if you could give us an ydantic information it would be quite another thing. The young lady's family is highly connected. Have you seen any one answering to the description?"

"It is a very common one," I answered. "I have seen scores of young ladies who might answer to it. I am surprised that in London you could not trace her. Did you apply to the police?"

"The police are blockheads," replied Mr. Scott. "Will you be so good as to see if there is any one in the outer office."

"KISSED HER TENDERLY."

Mr. Brown, or on the stairs? I believe I heard a noise outside."

Mr. Brown disappeared for a few minutes; but his absence did not interrupt the conversation. There was not much to be made out of it on either side, for we were only fencing with one another. I learned nothing about Olivia's friends, and I was satisfied he had learned nothing about her.

At last we parted with mutual dissatisfaction; and I went moodily downstairs, followed by Jack. We drove back to Brook street, to spend the few hours that remained before the train started for Southampton.

"Doctor," said Simmons, as Jack paid him his fare, with a small coin added to it, "I'm half-frenzied I've done some mischief. I've been turning it over and over in my head, and can't exactly see the rights of it. A girl, with a pen behind her ears, comes down at that old Gray's Inn Road, and takes my number. But after that he says a civil thing or two. 'Fine young gent,' he says, pointing up the staircase. 'Very much so,' says I. 'Young doctors?' he says. 'You're right,' I says. 'I guessed so,' he says; 'and pretty well up the tree, eh?' 'Ay,' I says; 'the light-haired gent is son to Dr. Senior, the great physician; and the other he comes from Guernsey, which is an island in the sea.' 'Just so,' he says; 'I've heard as much. I hope I've done no mischief, doctor?'"

"I hope not, Simmons," answered Jack; "but your tongue hangs too loose, my man. Look out for a squall on the Olivia coast, Martin," he added.

My anxiety would have been very great if I had not been returning immediately to Guernsey. But once there, and in communication with Tardif, I could not believe any danger would threaten Olivia from which I could not protect or rescue her. She was of age, and had a right to act for herself. With two such friends as Tardif and me, no one could force her away from her chosen home.

(To be continued.)

A Good Story.

Tommy—Tell me a story, uncle. Uncle—A story! But I don't know what to tell you a story about. Tommy—Oh, tell me a story about a little boy who had a good uncle who gave him a quarter—Mirth.

China's Kerosene Imports.

Before 1880 little was known in China of kerosene. In 1880 more than 100,000,000 gallons were imported.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

King Edward is suffering from lumbago.

Serious riots occurred at the Hungarian elections.

Kitchener attacks the British government's war policy.

Sugar trust makes a deep cut in manufactured product.

Flanagan broke the hammer-throwing record at Louisville.

Columbia won the third race and the series from the Shamrock.

The speedy collapse of the Boer resistance is expected by the British war office.

Sunday-closing movement in Lewis county, Wash., declared at an end by the reformers.

Members of the Macedonian committee were implicated in the abduction of Miss Stone.

Banker Bush, of Salem, files new and stronger charges against ex-State Treasurer Metcahan.

Secretary Hay may resign.

Martial law will be declared at Cape ports.

In attacks on two British forts 250 Boers were killed.

Anarchist Johann Most was discharged from custody.

President appointed Col. Wm. H. Bissie a brigadier general of the regular army.

The Steamers' and Longshoremen's strike at San Francisco has been settled.

The Industrial commission has issued a report on labor legislation at home and abroad.

Boers attacked Kekewich's camp near Pretoria and were repulsed, with heavy loss on both sides.

Harrowing details were connected with the slaughter of Americans in Samar. The president of Balangiga led the assault in person. A heavy force is being sent to punish the rebels.

The Turks are preparing to attack Koweit.

The cabinet discussed McKay's Pacific cable scheme.

Venezuela is sending more troops to the Goajira frontier.

Pro-Boers in Bermuda aided Dutch war prisoners to escape.

Duke and Duchess of York began their homeward journey.

Prominent names are mentioned in connection with the Heistano affair.

German owners christen their ships in honor of Oregon and the Columbia.

Plans are about completed for the opening of the Fort Hall, Idaho, Indian reservation.

Important decision regarding the sale of lands, on which payments are overdue, by the Oregon State Land Board.

American ship Iroquois dismantled. Dining car robbed of \$409 at Ashland.

Columbia has a cabinet crisis on hand.

Heavy increase in visible grain supply.

Several miners killed in a mine explosion near Victoria, B. C.

Official investigation begun of the alleged Manila hemp combination.

The Duke and Duchess of York were royally entertained by Vancouver, B. C.

Sentinel was deceived in thinking there were intruders at the tomb of McKinley.

A new branch of a society to slaughter whites discovered in the Philippines.

Venezuela's finances are in bad shape, and the feeling against President Castro is growing.

Benjamin J. Goe confesses the murder of Edward McIntyre, in Coville county, Wash., last week.

Admiral Evans, Captain Jewell and Commander Miller were the new witnesses before the Schley court.

Officers did not escape in the disaster at Samar, as at first reported. Two soldiers from the fight bring the news.

Prince Chun has started for home.

Roosevelt was brevetted a brigadier general.

Believe any danger would threaten Olivia from which I could not protect or rescue her. She was of age, and had a right to act for herself. With two such friends as Tardif and me, no one could force her away from her chosen home.

The Chicago elevated railroad strike was a failure.

Treasury officials figure out an accumulation of \$540,000,000 of gold within a year.

The river Dee in Scotland has had more poems written in its honor than any other stream on the British isle.

The English bought \$360,000 worth of American shoes in 1898 and increased their purchases last year to \$1,150,000. English shoe firms are trying to save themselves by putting in American machinery.

BRITISH WAR OFFICE

Closely Revises Reports From South Africa — Kekewich Was Surprised.

New York, Oct. 7.—Discussing the military situation in South Africa, the London correspondent of the Tribune says:

"Colonel Kekewich's force was surprised by Commandant Delagry, as was suspected by military men when the earliest bulletins bearing the marks of close revision by the war office were published. While this engagement supplies fresh proof that scouting is either a lost art or else ineffectual against the stealthy approach of mobile and crafty foes like the Boers, the veterans are satisfied with the fine fighting form displayed by Colonel Kekewich's command. They assert that the British army had grown stale while only half employed in watching railways and moving across stretches of empty country, whose Boers eluded pursuit and would not stand, but it is again on its mettle when there is real fighting."

"Colonel Kekewich is regarded by South Africans as a vigilant officer, with a narrow mind and a lack of flexibility. While he defended Kimberley successfully it was Cecil Rhodes who recruited the volunteer force of Colonials and imparted courage to the people of the town. Colonel Kekewich did not get on well with Mr. Rhodes, who was the real defender of Kimberley. There is a story that when General French entered Kimberley, Colonel Kekewich asked him to put Rhodes under arrest, but was laughed at. He has been one of Lord Kitchener's trusted lieutenants as an experienced officer, who thoroughly understands Boer tactics."

MAMMOTH DRYDOCK.

Largest in the World—Will Be Boated From Baltimore to the Mississippi.

New York, Oct. 7.—A special to the Journal and Advertiser from Washington says:

With a general agreement reached by the insurance companies which is expected on the day fixed by the builders, the largest floating drydock in the world will start from Baltimore on October 15 on a hazardous trip down the Atlantic and around the Gulf and up the Mississippi to its new station at Algiers, La. A conference has been held this week between a representative of the firm building the dock and Admiral Endicott, chief of the bureau of yards and docks, and an agreement reached to start the dock away. It is said that all the companies having insurance on the risk will agree on the date named and the big basin will float off then. Next Saturday it will take the water and the work of preparing it for the cruise will begin. This dock has a lifting capacity of 17,500 tons, and is by far the largest in the world. It is the design of two Englishmen, Clark and Stanfield. The great mass of steel, enclosed on all sides, is longer, wider and deeper than the greatest warship ever built, and cost the government over \$1,000,000.

KRUGER GROWING WEAKER.

Only Held Up By His Intense Hatred of Great Britain.

The Hague, Oct. 7.—A. D. W. Wolmarans, one of the Boer envoys who has been visiting Mr. Kruger, found the mental condition of the ex-President of the Transvaal to be by no means satisfactory. Mr. Kruger is slowly growing weaker, physically and mentally.

His slowness in reaching a decision on important questions is found to be a serious hindrance to those working in Europe in behalf of the Boer cause. At the slightest question regarding his health, Mr. Kruger exhibits intense irritation and vehemently denies that anything is wrong. The approach of winter causes anxiety, as Mr. Kruger refuses to leave Holland. According to a remark made by a prominent Boer, the ex-presidents' condition would long since have been much worse if hatred of Great Britain did not nerve him to continue.

New Chief of Ordnance.

Washington, Oct. 7.—Captain William Crozier, ordnance department, stationed at the Army building in New York, will be selected to succeed General Bullington as Chief of Ordnance of the army, on the retirement of the last named officer next month. Captain Crozier was military representative of the United States at the Hague conference.

Sedition-Makers Revealed.

London, Oct. 7.—The correspondent of the Times at Pretoria says the treason trials have revealed the presence of sedition-makers, who have not only taken the oath of allegiance to the British crown, but in many cases, have been receiving relief from British authorities. In spite of this they communicated freely with their friends in the commandos in the field, feeling confident that they would be treated leniently if caught. There is no doubt that 10 of the men could be proved guilty.

Butchers Form a Company.

Patterson, N. J., Oct. 7.—Articles of incorporation of the Volunteer Packing company, the formation of which resulted from the strike of the butchers in Muh's establishment, have been filed in the county clerk's office at Patterson. Soon after the strike was declared the striking butchers decided to form an independent company and to run it on the cooperative plan as far as possible. The authorized capital is \$100,000.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

Three prisoners escaped from the Lane county jail.

General prosperity is reported from the Grand Ronde valley.

Chinese pheasants are unusually plentiful in Linn county.

Farmers about Salem refuse to sell wheat at 45 cents a bushel.

The business portion of Gresham was almost wiped out by fire.

Rich strikes are becoming frequent in the Cable Cove district.

A Roseburg Chinaman has had both legs amputated below the knee.

A drunken man was robbed of \$400 in the depot waiting room at Roseburg.

Hops about Woodburn are beginning to move freely at about 10 cents per pound.

Astoria has not school room enough to accommodate her increased school population.

Placer miners on Hungry creek near Grants Pass make from \$5 to \$10 per day.

Great interest is manifested by Umatilla farmers in the fair to be held at Pendleton.

The men who robbed the dining car at Roseburg have been arrested in San Francisco.

At the government fish hatchery on the Clackamas over 240,000 salmon eggs were taken in one day.

A 4-year-old child was kicked on the head by a horse near Switzland, Marion county, and instantly killed.

The Harney County Stockmen's association has passed strong resolutions condemning the leasing of ranges.

Several teams are busy hauling the new machinery to the Maiden's Dream mine, seven miles northwest of Sumpter.

A 12-year-old boy near Woodburn accidentally shot and probably fatally wounded his 1-year-old brother with a gopher gun.

The steamer Altoma made her first trip of the season to Independence.

The Golden Standard mine on Galls creek near Ashland has been sold for \$40,000.

Machinery is on the ground for a 10-stamp mill for the Gem mine, near Sparta.

John Hart, aged 22 years, was killed by his horse falling on him near Ashland.

The Aurora flouring mills were totally destroyed by fire, supposed to be incendiary.

Oil prospectors in Southeastern Oregon report unmistakable evidences of oil in abundance.

The total assessed valuation of Polk county is \$3,771,447, or \$641,656 greater than last year.

Close investigations reveal that the feed prospects for the interior stock districts are very poor.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, nominal 53¢55¢; bluestem, 54¢; valley, 54¢. Flour—best grades, \$2.65¢3.50 per barrel; graham, \$2.60. Oats—Old, 90¢11¢ per cental. Barley—Feed, \$1.50¢1.55; brewing, \$1.60 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$17¢18¢; middlings, \$20¢21¢; shorts, \$19¢20¢; chop, \$16. Hay—Timothy, \$11¢13¢; clover, \$7¢9.50; Oregon wild hay, \$5¢6 per ton. Butter—Fancy creamery, 25¢27¢; dairy, 18¢20¢; store, 12¢15¢ per pound. Eggs—Storage 20¢; fresh 23¢25¢. Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12¢13¢; Young America, 13¢14¢ per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00¢4.00; hens, \$4.00¢4.50; dressed, 10¢11¢ per pound; springs, \$2.00¢3.00 per dozen; ducks, \$3 for old; \$3.50 for young; geese, \$6¢9 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12¢15¢; dressed, 10¢12¢ per pound. Mutton—Lamb, 3¢; gross, \$3.25; gross, dressed, 6¢ per lb. Hogs—Gross, heavy, \$6¢6.25; light, \$4.75¢5; dressed, 7¢7½¢ per pound. Veal—Small, 8¢9¢; large, 7¢7½¢ per pound. Beef—Gross top steers, \$3.50¢4.00; cows and heifers, \$3.00¢3.50; dressed beef, 5¢6¢ per pound. Hops—3½¢9¢ per pound. Wool—Valley, 11¢13¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢12¢; mohair, 20¢21¢ per pound. Potatoes—\$1¢1.15 per sack.

A MONTANA LYNCHING.

Masked Men Took a Brute Out of Jail and Hung Him to a Telegraph Pole.

Helena, Mont., Oct. 4.—James Edward Brady, the man who committed an unusually brutal assault upon 5-year-old Ida Pugsley, in Helena, was taken from the jail and hanged to a telegraph pole in the hay-market square, about three blocks from the jail. The crowd was orderly and after the man had been hanged quietly dispersed. There were about 200 men engaged in the affair, and they were all masked. They attacked the jail door with a battering ram and it soon yielded. On gaining admittance, they demanded the keys of the jailer at the point of a gun, and threatened that if he did not yield the man up they would kill him. The jailer then got the man out of his cell and he was given to the mob. When they first took him, Brady asked: "What is this gentlemen?" The march to the hanging place was quiet. Brady was given a chance to say a word. He declared that they had the wrong man, although he had been positively identified by his victim and a score of other people who had seen him with the child. He also asked that some money that he had taken from the Montana Central railroad be sent to a niece, and then he was pulled up. The end of the rope was tied to the pole and the crowd dispersed. Later Sheriff McConnell cut the body down and placed it in a coffin. There will be an investigation today.

MORE LAND FOR SETTLERS.

Fort Hall Reservation Soon to Be Opened—Quaint Reserve Will Be Next.

Washington, Oct. 4.—The interior department is rapidly completing plans for the opening of Fort Hall, Idaho, Indian reservation. The date for the opening has not been fixed, as the preliminary work has not been completed, but it is expected that the reservation, which contains 400,000 acres, will be thrown open to settlement within a few weeks. The Quaint reservation in Washington, comprising 300,000 acres, will probably be thrown open to settlement next spring. The contract for surveying the reservation is about to be awarded. Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office, said today that it was probable the old "sooner" system would be adopted at the opening of both these reservations.

MORE KLONDIKE GOLD.

Steamer Humboldt Brings the Second Largest Shipment of the Season.

Seattle, Oct. 4.—The steamer Humboldt arrived from Skagway today with 216 passengers and about \$1,000,000 in gold, half of it in care of the Alaska Express Company. It is the second largest shipment of the season from the Klondike. Among the passengers were well-known Klondike claim-owners, and Lieutenants Canning and Blake, of the revenue service. The Humboldt brings the news that Sept. 25, the first day on which the press dispatches reached Skagway from the States, was regarded as an epoch in Alaskan history. All the telegraphic news was strongly featured. The story is also told of a fabulously rich quartz strike in the Altin district, quartz \$25,000 in gold to the ton.

DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION.

Causes a Loss of Nearly Half a Million Dollars—Entire Business Section Threatened.

St. Louis, Oct. 4.—Fire that broke out at 10 a. m. in the plant of the Standard Milling company, on the river front at Alton, Ill., destroyed that and several other buildings, causing a loss of about \$400,000. A high wind blew the sparks broadcast, threatening the destruction of the business section of Alton, and St. Louis was appealed to for help. A special train carried two engines from here, and they, with the local department, got the fire under control at 1 o'clock.

Five Bluff Line freight cars loaded with wheat, the freight house of the Diamond Jo steamship line, and seven buildings of minor importance were also destroyed.

Mission Burned By Boxers.

London, Oct. 4.—A cablegram to the Times from Hong Kong says the Basel Mission at Ping Tong, north ern Kwang Tung, has been burned by members of the Triad Society of Rebels. The Missionaries escaped and have arrived at Kia Ying Chow.

London, Oct. 4.—"Thousands of rebels," says a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Hong Kong, "after sacking the German Mission at Ping Tong, attacked Hin Nan, a city near Cochinchina. They were repulsed, but they then attacked Shunpa, where they were again repulsed. Two thousand Chinese troops have been sent to suppress them."

Gold Commissioner Suspended.

Seattle, Oct. 4.—Dawson dispatches state that J. Langlois Bell, assistant gold commissioner for the Klondike district, has been suspended from office. No reason has been given for the change. Dufferin Patullo, chief clerk for the office, is taking his place for the time. Mr. Bell has been in Dawson holding this office for 18 months. It is stated his official affairs will be investigated.